

ABSTRACT

An expandable penetrating needle of substantially conical shape when in an unexpanded state. The expandable penetrating needle has a needle shaft with a preferably sharp point at a first end, and a base at a second end. The base is adapted for attachment to a substantially hollow hub. The needle shaft is divided into separable segments. An additional device may be inserted through the hub and into the needle shaft. As the additional device is passed through the needle shaft, the segments thereof are caused to progressively separate, thereby causing a gradual expansion of an initial entryway produced by insertion of the point of the needle shaft into a material to be penetrated. The expandable penetrating needle may be used for medical as well as non-medical purposes.